THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Drugs, for which harmful effects or inadequate thereapeutic justification is reported in the context of current medical evidence, are examined by Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) on a continuous basis. Drugs are banned in the country under Section 26A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Based on recommendations of DTAB, if a drug is found to be harmful, it is banned with immediate effect. If there is lack of therapeutic reationale, the drug is banned in a phase wise manner.

(b) to (d) Every country has its own regulatory system for approving or banning drugs after examining overall benefit rise ratio of the drug in consultation with experts and is requirement in the country. The safety and efficacy of a drug is ascertained as per Schedule Y of Drugs and Consmetics Rules before market approval in the country. There is regulatory system in place for ensuring safety and efficacy of drugs before market approval in the country.

Examination of marketed drugs by DTAB is a continuous process and based on the recommendations of DTAB, so far, 78 drugs/drug formulations have been prohibited for marketing in the country. Sale of banned drugs in the country is a punishable offence under Section 28B of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Over burdening of CGHS dispensaries

594. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the CGHS dispensaries in the country are over burdened;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to open new dispensaries to reduce the burden on the existing dispensaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Staff inspection Unit (SIU), Department of Expenditure, has fixed staffing pattern norms for CGHS dispensaries. Staff to dispensaries are provided on the basis of the norms so fixed. Also, the number of card holders in 2006-07 has come down to 9,12,096 from the earlier figure of 10,66,251.

Decrease in production and sale of khadi garments

†595. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is continous decrease in the production and sale of khadi garments;

(b) the total number of weavers working at present in khadi and village industries in the country alongwith the decrease in the total number of weavers during the last three years;

(c) what steps Government is contemplating to improve the quality of khadi garments and the steps taken by Government to make it competitive;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is also a fact that a strong reason of less sale of khadi garments is higher price and low quality; and

(e) if so, the details of the planning of Government to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. The production and sales of khadi have increased in the last five years (2002-03, 2003-04, 2004.05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) as detailed below:

Year	Value of Prodcution (Rs. crore)	Value of Sales (Rs. crore)
2002-03	443.07	577.63
2003-04	453.50	587.04
2004-05	461.54	617.84
2005-06	468.30	628.69
2006-07	491.52	663.19

(b) The number of weavers working in the khadi sector during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is as below:

Year	Number of Weavers (lakh persons)
2004-05	6.87
2005-06	6.90
2006-07	7.01

(c) The steps taken by the Government and KVIC to improve the quality of khadi, including garments and to make it more competitive include the following:

(i) KVIC has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Textiles Committee, a statutory autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Textiles under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, under which the Textiles Committee has agreed to make available their laboratory infrastructure for checking quality of khadi cloth. Interfaces were also established with reputed Research and Development (R&D) institutes to extend results of their R&D efforts to KVI units.

(ii) Technical manual, specifications and norms for test quality parameters of Khadi have been devised and published in a booklet form with the assistance of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.The techncial manual prescribes the procedure to be adopted while checking samples of raw material, sliver, yarn, fabric etc. used in the production of Khadi, which is expected to ensure the quality of Khadi products.

(iii) In technical collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, KVIC has introduced special finishing technique in the khadi sector to improve the quality and appearance of khadi products and a process facility has been created at Kshetriya Shri Khadi Ashram, Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh) on a pilot basis.

(iv) KVIC has set up 6 sliver plants in different parts of the country to ensure supply of quality sliver to the khadi institutions.

(v) Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) have been established by the KVIC for setting up common facility centres (CFCs).

(vi) Financial assistance is provided under Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging of khadi products;

(vii) Credit at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annual has been provided by banks as per the assessed requirement of the institutions registered with the Khandi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme.

(viii) The 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)' has been launched for developing 34 khadi clusters throughout the country over five years beginning 2005-06.

(d) and (e) The price of khadi cannot be considered as a reason attributable to low sales. The cost of khadi is regulated by a cost chart mechanism which is formulated after taking into consideration not only all factors of inputs but also to ensure certain level of wages to spinners and weavers. The cost chart mechanism bring certain level of uniformity in khadi cost across the country, which induces a sense of confidence among the buyers of khandi products. The rebate on retail sale of khadi provided from budgetary sources of the Government, from time to time, facilitates selling of khandi at reduced price to the customers which helps in boostings of its sale. As regards quality of khandi, khadi being handspun and hand-women, unevenness of the khadi fabric is a unique charateristic of khadi cloth. However, in order to improve the quality of silvers, the raw material for khadi production KVIC has established 6 central sliver plants at various places in the country, which are supplying quality silvers, in order to improve the quality of yarn and thus the khadi cloth.

Protection of SSIs

596. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to protect small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is primarily the function of the respective State governments. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts by providing supportive measures by way of enhancing their competitiveness through specific schemes, which *inter alia*, include the schemes for comprehensive need based development of clusters, accessing markets, assistance for technological upgradation, improved infrastructure, better availability of credit, facilities for training and capacity building of entrepreneurs, etc. With a view to further enhancing their competitive edge, the Govt. of India announced a Package for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises in March 2007 a National manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, besides operationalising the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006, from 2 October 2006.